

SWADLINCOTE AREA MEETING

8th May 2006

PRESENT:-

District Council Representatives

Councillors Harrington (Chair), Councillor Southerd (Vice Chair), and Councillors Isham, Lane and Taylor.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), G. Hague (Head of Planning), D. Townsend (Democratic Services) and B. Jones (Helpdesk).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

Councillor Southerd and A. Bond (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire Constabulary

Sergeant A. Wright.

Members of the Public

J. Fairall, E. Key, M. Hudson, N. Lunn, R. Causer, M. Causer, J. Grew, D. Staley, T. Jackson, D. Pitcher, A. D. Pitcher, G. Farrington, B. Farrington and M. Hall.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from D. Tysoe (Derbyshire County Council) and N. Tilley.

SA/22. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 23rd January 2006 were noted.

SA/23. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Gill Hague (Head of Planning) who gave an overview with regard the third river crossing and the Swadlincote Regeneration Route. She advised the meeting that Derbyshire County Council had recently instructed Atkins, the Consultants current working on the feasibility study for a third river crossing and possible A38 to A511 link road, to undertake additional work relating to the Regeneration Route. This was reported as being in addition to the desk-top study being undertaken by the County Council. She added that regular updates were being given via Atkins and that further updates would be given to residents as additional information became available.

The Chair then continued to give an update on the multi-curb side green box scheme expansion. He explained that the waste management team were expanding the multi-curb side scheme to an additional 11,000 properties. A green box would be provided for glass bottles, jars, tins and foil. Newspaper would be put in the blue bag (as at present), and textiles would go in a separate sack. The green box, blue bag and textile sack would be collected at the same time. The collection would take place fortnightly. Information leaflets and calendars would be delivered to properties with the box and bags

at the beginning of July. Road shows would also be held prior to the scheme commencing in July.

SA/24. **REPORT BACK ON ISSUES RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING**

With regard the Zebra Crossing at Church Gresley Councillor Southerd confirmed that the report-back referred to the crossing at Linton Road. There had previously been reference to a crossing at Church Street which Councillor Southerd would continue to pursue.

Councillor Southerd to continue to pursue issues with regard the crossing at Church Street.

A discussion ensued with regards the current situation outside Tesco Express, Church Street, Church Gresley. Sergeant Wright confirmed that an Officer had spoken to Tesco Express, and they had received very few further incident reports. He agreed to monitor this position and report back at future meetings. A resident also reported that there were still problems with access for the bus (the bus bay had previously been narrowed and shortened). Councillor Southerd agreed to monitor the situation and progress if and when money became available.

Sergeant Wright to continue to monitor any further incident reports. Councillor Southerd agreed to continue to pursue the situation with regards accessing any available money for improvements from Derbyshire County Council.

With regard the obstruction by an overgrown bush on Common Side round about, Derbyshire County Council reported that this bush had been trimmed, however a resident believed it still caused an obstruction and provided photographic evidence of this.

A. Bond agreed to revisit the situation within Derbyshire County Council.

With regard street cleaning on private property, M. Alflat reported that Service Agreements were being sought with businesses in the town centre to enable South Derbyshire District Council to pursue cleaning of these areas.

SA/25. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LOCAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

G. Ferrington of Swadlincote and District 50+ Forum reported that there were large cracks in the paving of the alleyway outside the Adult Education Centre. She added that she had a 250 signature petition requesting that this area be subject to improvements. In addition the fencing in this area is also in an untidy and damaged state.

M. Alflat responded that this should be considered within the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership. He agreed to follow up this issue.

The Chair then continued to deal with issues raised on email by Mr. Robinett, who was unable to attend the Meeting.

The e-mail raised issues as follows:-

1. Problems with illegal parking outside Tesco Express which was dealt with within the report back.

2. The current situation with regards litter outside Tesco Express, being unacceptable.
M. Alflat responded that Neighbourhood Wardens had now been appointed and would deal with antisocial behaviour including litter issues.
3. The refurbishment of Maurice Lee Park was praised by Mr. Robinett, adding that it was a great credit to the area. However it was requested why signs, instructing dog owners to keep their animals on leads had not been re-installed. In addition, it was asked when the second building (to the west of the flat bowling green) would be refurbished. The Chair responded that funding is currently being sought for this project.
M. Alflat agreed to investigate further the issue with regard signage.
4. The issue of parking in Swadlincote High Street / West Street / Midland Road was considered to be causing problems. G. Hague responded that these issues were being considered by consultants within the master plan.
5. Vandalised fences that boarded the alley from High Street to Rinkway was also raised. Councillor Southerd agreed with the remarks regarding the vandalised fences and asked if mesh fencing could be considered in this area with additional funding assisting this project.
M. Alflat agreed to look into this however he added that this would need to be a partnership with local businesses.
It was also requested that signage be installed on this alleyway advising no bikes, ball games, dog fouling etc.
M. Alflat responded that the town centre was currently being looked at with regard such items, and added that once the Enforcement Officers were in place they would have the power to serve fixed penalty notices for the for mentioned antisocial behaviour.

A number of concerns were raised by residents regarding Policing methods following the reporting of a crime. Sergeant Wright agreed to raise this with Inspector Fairbrother.

There was a query with regards the opening times at the Police Station. Sergeant Wright responded that the reception was staffed by civilians, however due to unforeseen circumstances, occasionally it had to shut within the advertised opening times. Sergeant Wright apologised for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Mrs. Staley reported that a gang of youths had been outside St Johns Ambulance, throwing stones at windows. This had been reported as an emergency call however they had received no response.
Sergeant Wright agreed to look into this and contact Mrs. Staley following the meeting.

A resident of Frank Bodicote Way reported that they were experiencing dumping of grass cuttings. Councillor Isham responded that she had already contacted Chris Mason, and was waiting for a response.

It was also reported that on Glebe Street, Swadlincote one resident was leaving their bin on the pavement all week making pedestrian access impossible.

M. Alflat agreed to follow this up outside the meeting.

A resident also reported that there were currently problems with youths hitting stones with tennis rackets which had caused instances of vandalism. Sergeant Wright agreed to report this back to other local Officers to raise awareness.

A resident asked if Morrisons could be approached to see if they would sell £5.00 electricity vouchers. G. Ferrington of Swadlincote District 50+ Forum agreed to follow this up.

A resident also requested that CCTV be installed within the town centre. M. Alflat responded that CCTV cameras had been installed on the car park in partnership with the Crime Partnership but unfortunately this had the effect of moving crime around to another area. He added that investment was being made in a mobile unit which was to be used throughout the district.

K HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.